GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1725
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2001
UPDATING OF NAVAL FLEET
A. VENKATESH NAIK;AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total shortage of warships the Indian Navy is facing as on date;

(b) the total number of warships with Indian Navy and the number out of them in working conditions;

(c) whether some warships are required immediate replacement by the modern warships;

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(e) whether the Naval Force at present lacks new technology; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) to (f): Indian Navy maintains an appropriate force level to meet the requirements of national security.

The Navy regularly reviews state of its forces both, with respect to available numbers as well as current technology. A number of new projects have been approved by the Government to replace existing ships and for induction of new technology to modernize the fleet. Some of the important measures taken in this regard are as follows:-

(i) Approval for construction of three Frigates at MDL Mumbai

(ii) Approval for import of three Frigates from abroad

(iii) Two submarines have been imported from abroad and commissioned in the Navy

(iv) Approval for indigenous construction of an Air Defence Ship

(v) The Navy is in the process of acquiring force multiplier like Unmanned Air Vehicles and Barak Anti-Missile Defence Systems.

Modernization of Fleet and suitable additions to the fleet are undertaken on continual basis to prevent the fleet from technological obsolescence and numerical reductions and to make them at par with contemporary fleets of advanced countries. It will not be in the interest of national security to divulge further information in this regard.